



Children's Court
of New South Wales

2023 ANNUAL REVIEW



Acknowledgement of Country

The Children's Court of NSW acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. The Children's Court also pays respect to Elders past and present.

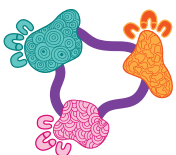
Artwork

The artwork elements featured in this Annual Review were designed by Lauren Henry and Brittany Cochrane from Yirra Miya, a First Nations Creative Agency, in consultation with Youth Koori Court Aboriginal Elders and the Children's Court of NSW. Lauren Henry is a proud Wodi Wodi and Walbunja Person from the Yuin Nation and Brittany Cochrane is a proud Biripi Woman.

Element Meanings



Family - the yarning circle represents kinship and the family connection between those that come in the doors of the court alongside the family they leave with. It also acknowledges the family atmosphere of the Children's Court and the importance of making families feel welcome and safe.



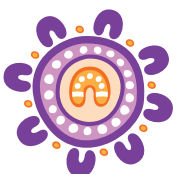
Meeting place - a representation that the Children's Court is a safe meeting place for those who walk through the court's doors. The three connected elements reflect the different lands on which the Children's Court are held and the journey children and young people take. They also represent connection to water (teal), country (orange) and the city (pink).



Healing - water holds a healing property. To heal ourselves is to also heal our connections with others. The connected watering holes show that healing is not a linear process. The flow represents the fluidity of change, learning and growing that children, young people and their families go through as part of the healing process.



Culture - represents the importance of cultivating an environment where children and young people can culturally connect and learn to keep stories alive. It also represents the importance of meaningfully exploring cultural considerations within the court process.



Respect - providing a safe space for children and young people to learn to respect those around them as well as themselves. The child or young person accessing the court is represented in the centre while the outer layer represents their supports, family and community.

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Foreword by the

President of the Children's Court

It is a pleasure to introduce the second Annual Review for the Children's Court of NSW.

The Annual Review reveals the commitment shown by Children's Magistrates, Children's Registrars, the Children's Court Executive, and Children's Court staff in providing access to justice for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Children and young people who are the subject of Children's Court decisions benefit from a court that prioritises their participation and engages with family, community members and service providers in supporting young people. The statistics show the nature and volume of the work, but when we look at the numbers it can be hard to remember that those numbers are people.

During 2023, the Children's Court launched several projects and programs intended to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people involved in Children's Court proceedings.

The Children's Court received government funding to expand the Youth Koori Court to Dubbo and sittings commenced in March. The Children's Court commenced sittings in the Winha-nga-nha List in September. These courts prioritise cultural engagement in court sittings and in service delivery outside court in recognition of the importance of working together to access better outcomes. The introduction of these initiatives would not have been possible without the commitment and perseverance of Magistrate Sue Duncombe, Rosemary Davidson, Vanessa Sakal, Louise Blazejowska, Wiradjuri Elders and Dubbo community members.

With the assistance of Yirra Miya, we developed and launched an Aboriginal digital artwork for the Youth Koori Court and the Winha-nga-nha List. Thank you to Vanessa Sakal who managed the project, and to the Youth Koori Court Elders and Children's Magistrates who were consulted throughout the project to ensure the artwork reflects the Court's intention to create a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal young people and their families. I would also like to thank



Her Honour
Judge Nell Skinner

“Children and young people who are the subject of Children's Court decisions benefit from a court that prioritises their participation and engages with family, community members and service providers in supporting young people.”

Lauren Henry and Brittany Cochrane, from Yirra Miya, for creating such beautiful and meaningful designs.

Active Efforts legislation was introduced in November. The legislation ensures the Department takes active steps to keep children safe at home and to restore children to safe homes. The Children's Court undertook training prior to the implementation of the legislation, and we remain committed to enhancing our cultural understanding to ensure court processes lead to better decisions for children.

In our care and protection jurisdiction, we see increasingly complex cases with vulnerable parents unable to meet the needs of their children, who are exhibiting adverse behaviours due to complex diagnoses. We recognise that it is difficult to care for these children, in home or in out of home care, and our judgments reveal our expectations that a care system must provide children with a better life than the life they left.

There are too many care children in our criminal lists, with histories of broken placements, alternate care arrangements and residential care homes. We appreciate the steps Legal Aid and the Aboriginal Legal Service have taken to provide care advice to young people in our criminal lists to ensure they live in a home that supports their needs.

In the criminal jurisdiction, we have observed changes in behaviour that are amplified through offending behaviour being posted on social media. Young people are often seen and treated as groups or gangs but every young person has a different identity and a different story. Their rehabilitation needs to be balanced with protecting the community, recognising that pro-social community engagement is the best long-term protection for the community.

The Children's Court is in constant discussions with government and community stakeholders about how we can work together to improve the lives of children and young people. Thank you to everyone who is attending presentations, reading emails, answering texts and phone calls, showing their commitment to working together to help young people meet their potential.

I would like to thank the Children's Magistrates who show their intelligence, wisdom and decency every day by walking in the door of their courtroom, ready to learn everything they need to know before making decisions on behalf of the community.

The Children's Registrars continued to support the work of the Children's Magistrates by skilfully preparing and conducting dispute resolution conferences and call-overs. The Children's Registrars also made essential contributions to practice changes and law reform submissions. I would like to thank Kate Bromley, Senior Children's Registrar, for her professionalism in managing and leading the Children's Registrar team. Kate worked on a number of projects to improve court practice and operations and her advice was invaluable.

To the Court staff working behind the scenes to support the Magistrates while presenting as the face of the Court for parties and lawyers; thank you for your kindness, patience and common-sense management of daily priorities. Our Executive Team of Rosemary Davidson, Jessica MacCulloch, Sara Kamel and Norelle Dessmann are always busy coordinating and attending

meetings, working on projects, communicating with stakeholders or managing complicated rosters while ensuring the rights of children are factored into any changes.

Thank you to my Associate, Olivia Taylor, who managed my diary, communicated with parties, catered for events, proof-read judgments, checked off items on the to do list and completing them all with humour and skill.

I would also like to thank Ewan Rozdal who spent two years with the Court as the Research Associate. Ewan compiled data, drafted correspondence and submissions, managed the Children's Court website, prepared judgments for publication, undertook research, summarised articles and law, and created dazzling PowerPoint slides.

It is a privilege to lead the Children's Court of NSW. I look forward to continuing to work together in 2024 and beyond.



Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner
President, Children's Court of New South Wales



Smoking ceremony to mark the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.

Part 1

Overview of the Children's Court

History

In the early years of European settlement, there was little difference in the way the law dealt with adults and children who committed crimes. There was also limited government involvement with children who were abandoned or not properly cared for by their families.

The establishment of the Children's Court of NSW under the *Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act 1905* represented a significant development in the law relating to children. The Act was assented to on 26 September 1905 and the first NSW Children's Courts were proclaimed on 29 September 1905 at Sydney, Newcastle, Parramatta, Burwood and Broken Hill. The Act came into operation on 1 October 1905, with the first sitting commencing at Ormond House, Paddington the same month.

The International Year of the Child in 1979 increased public interest in issues affecting children and significant legislative reform occurred over the following decades, including enactment of the *Children's Court Act 1987*, the *Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987*, the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*, the *Young Offenders Act 1997* and the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

In 2010, amendments were introduced to the *Education Act 1990* to provide for an application to be made to the Children's Court for a compulsory schooling order and, in appropriate circumstances, referral to a conference to attempt to resolve issues relating to a child's non-attendance at school.

Over time the legislation that governs the way in which the Children's Court deals with cases has become more complex. However, the fundamental principles upon which the Court was established remain unchanged, that is, to attempt to rehabilitate young offenders and to make decisions that are in the best interests of the child.

Jurisdiction

The Children's Court of NSW is a specialist court established under the *Children's Court Act 1987*. The Court deals specifically with cases involving children and young people regarding:

- Care and protection,
- Criminal cases,
- Apprehended Violence Orders, and
- Compulsory Schooling Orders.

Judicial Officers

President of the Children's Court

The President of the Children's Court is appointed under section 6A of the *Children's Court Act 1987* and must hold office as a Judge of the District Court. The current President of the Children's Court is Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner.

In addition to dealing with cases in the Children's Court the President has responsibility for the administration of the Court including arranging the sittings of the Court, developing recommendations for rules in relation to the practice and procedure of the Court, issuing Practice Notes, overseeing the training of Children's Magistrates and consulting with community groups and agencies on matters involving children and the Court.

Children's Magistrates

Specialist Children's Magistrates are appointed under section 7 of the *Children's Court Act 1987* for periods of up to five years. They are selected from a general pool of Magistrates appointed under the *Local Court Act 2007* having regard to their qualifications, expertise, skills and experience in dealing with children, young people and their families.

In 2023, 15 full time equivalent Magistrates served as specialist Children's Magistrates:

His Honour Magistrate M Crompton

Her Honour Magistrate L McManus

Her Honour Magistrate S Duncombe

Her Honour Magistrate R Richardson

His Honour Magistrate A Eckhold

His Honour Magistrate A Sbrizzi

Her Honour Magistrate N Ford

Her Honour Magistrate T Sheedy

His Honour Magistrate R Funston
(commenced 9 January 2023)

Her Honour Magistrate A Viney
(commenced 20 February 2023)

His Honour Magistrate P Hayes

His Honour Magistrate J Viney

His Honour Magistrate M Love

His Honour Magistrate D Williams

Her Honour Magistrate F McCarron

The Children's Court also hosted 14 rotating Magistrates throughout the year.

Magistrates

Children's Court cases are also dealt with by Local Court Magistrates in locations where a specialist Children's Magistrate is not available.

Court Locations

There are four courthouses specifically assigned as Children's Courts. These courthouses are located at Parramatta, Surry Hills, Woy Woy and Broadmeadow.

Specialist Children's Magistrates also deal with Children's Court cases at shared court facilities at Campbelltown, Sutherland, Wyong and in the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Tablelands, Hunter, Mid-North Coast, Northern Rivers, Western and Riverina regions.

In rural and regional areas outside these locations, the sittings of the Children's Court coincide with the sittings of the Local Court and are conducted by Local Court Magistrates.



Parramatta Children's Court
2 George Street, Parramatta



Surry Hills Children's Court
66-78 Albion Street, Surry Hills



Woy Woy Court House
78-80 Blackwell Rd, Woy Woy



Broadmeadow Children's Court
19-23 Lambton Rd, Broadmeadow

Court Registries

A court registry is the office attached to a particular court. There is a Children's Court registry at each location where the Children's Court sits. In some locations the Children's Court registry is separate from the Local Court registry but in most locations, enquiries can be made within the one office.

Registrars of the Children's Court

A Registrar of the Children's Court is assigned for each Children's Court registry. The Registrar of the Children's Court is responsible for the daily management and administration of the Court including maintaining the records of the Court, issuing court documents, managing court staff and the premises. The Registrar of the Children's Court also carries out some functions that are allowed under legislation. In some locations the Registrar may assist the Court by calling through the cases listed on a particular day to ensure that they are ready to proceed. This is called a call-over.

Children's Registrars

Children's Registrars are appointed under section 10A of the *Children's Court Act 1987*. The main role of a Children's Registrar is to conduct dispute resolution conferences in care and protection cases under section 65 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. The purpose of a dispute resolution conference is to provide the parties in the case an opportunity to agree on action that should be taken in the best interests of the child or young person. Children's Registrars may also perform functions as specified by the *Children's Court Rules 2000* or under other legislation.

In 2023, there were 11.4 full time equivalent Children's Registrars:

Nada Alamali	Joanne Lynch
Mariaelena Albu	Hana Marjanac
Brooke Bowman	Juliette Northcote
Kate Bromley	Caroline Stirling
Anne Davis	Sonia Strounis
Mary Gleeson	Niki Valentine
Edwina Hunter	Natalee Spinks (from 11 April 2023)

Part 2

Children's Court Operations



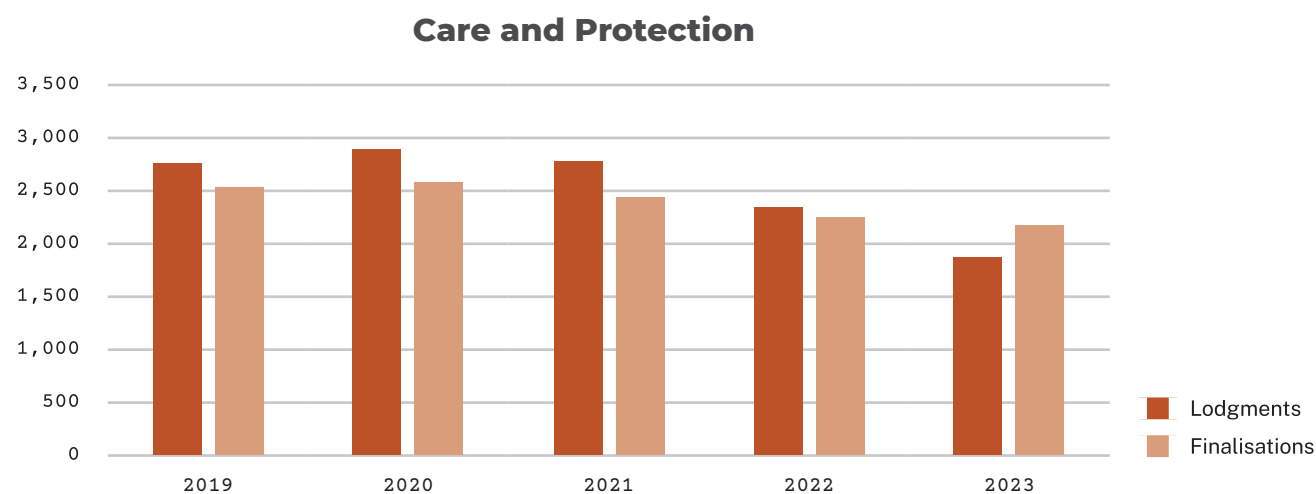
Care and Protection

When concerns have been raised about the care and protection of a child or young person under the age of 18 years, the Children's Court has jurisdiction to make court orders to ensure their safety, welfare and wellbeing.

Caseworkers within the Department of Communities and Justice are responsible for taking actions to keep children safe under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. Caseworkers often work with families without taking court action. However, if it is assessed that it is no longer safe for a child or young person to remain living with one or both of their parents or their current carer, an application must be made to the Children's Court.

Judicial officers in the Children's Court will independently assess all the facts and circumstances of each case and apply the law before any final decision is made. The Court must make sure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child or young person, with the safety, welfare and well-being of the child or young person as the main consideration.

2019 - 2023 Workload Trends



2019 - 2023 Workload Trends (continued)

Care and Protection	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lodgments					
Form 1-Application Initiating Care Proceedings	1,750	1,776	1,726	1,527	1,273
Form 3-Application for Rescission/Variation of Care Order	978	1,095	1,063	805	632
Form 5-Application for Parent Capacity Order	5	13	18	1	0
TOTAL	2,733	2,884	2,807	2,333	1,905
Finalisations					
Form 1-Application Initiating Care Proceedings	1,565	1,590	1,481	1,478	1,550
Form 3-Application for Rescission/Variation of Care Order	973	998	956	782	619
Form 5-Application for Parent Capacity Order	0	8	3	6	1
TOTAL	2,538	2,596	2,440	2,266	2,170

Note: Count is by child/young person.

Care and Protection		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Time to finalisation						
Form 1- Application Initiating Care Proceedings	< 6 months	305	318	214	158	113
	6-12 months	712	698	667	509	534
	>12 months	548	574	600	811	903
Form 3- Application for Rescission/ Variation of Care Order	< 6 months	585	598	564	429	348
	6-12 months	277	249	254	216	146
	>12 months	111	151	138	137	125
Form 5- Application for Parent Capacity Order	< 6 months	0	3	3	0	0
	6-12 months	0	5	0	6	0
	>12 months	0	0	0	0	1

Note: Count is by child/young person.

2023 Care and Protection - all document types

Care and Protection	Lodgments	Finalisations
Application for Assessment Order	177	147
Care Plan (s38(1))	5	10
Care Plan (s38(2) or (3))	4	4
Care Plan (s78)	531	531
Form 1-Application Initiating Care Proceedings	1273	1553
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Costs	4	0
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Extension of Supervision	13	11
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Guardian Ad Litem	97	92
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Joinder	272	218
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Order for Alternative Parenting Plan	632	619
Form 2-Application (other than form 1)-Other	2	4
Form 3-Application for Rescission/Variation of Care Order	0	1
Form 4-Application for Contact Orders	1	1
Form 5-Application for Parent Capacity Order	4	5
Form 6-Application for Variation or Revocation of Parent Capacity Orders	3	3
Form 7-Application for Assessment Order	0	0
Form 8-Application to Transfer Child Protection Order from NSW to another Jurisdiction	24	24
Form 9-Application to Transfer Child Protection Proceeding from NSW to another Jurisdiction	3	3
Form 10-Application for Registration of an Interstate Child Protection Order in NSW	22	22
Form 11-Application for Registration of an Interstate Child Protection Proceeding in NSW	4	4
Form 18-Notice of removal or assumption of a child or young person where no court order is required	24	24
Form 19-Notification of Breach of Undertakings	0	0
Form 41-Breach of Contract	0	0
Form 42-Notification of Breach of Prohibition Order	7	7
Form 44-Contact Variation Agreement	440	375
Parent Responsibility Contract	2,496	2,036
Receive Section 76 Report	177	147
Receive Section 82 Report	5	10
TOTAL	6,220	5,851

Note: Count is by child/young person. Data includes case activating events and processes within a case.

Crime

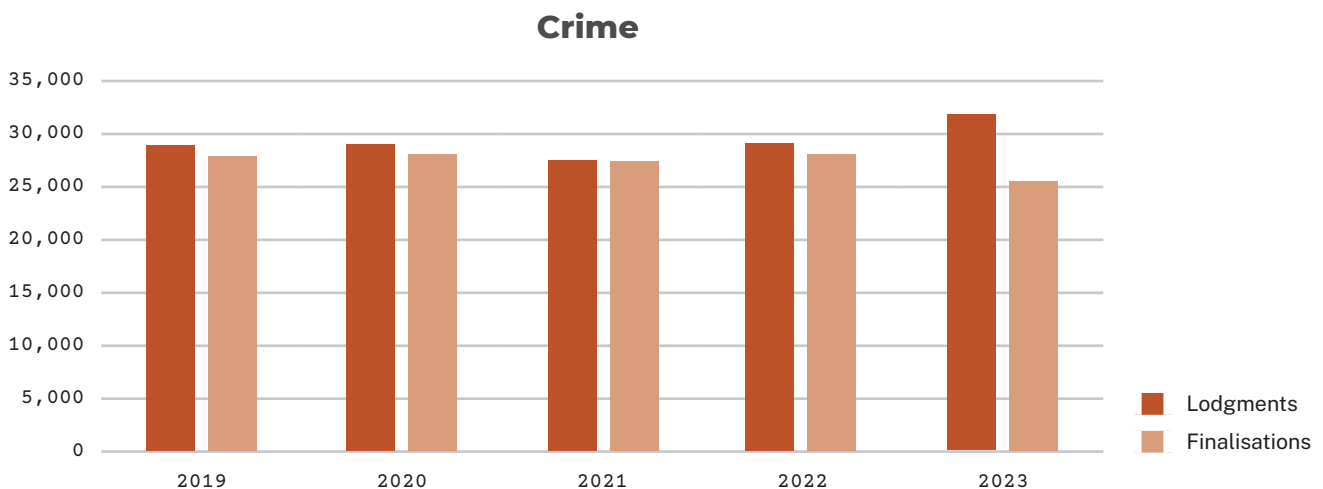
The Children’s Court determines criminal charges against children and young people who are over 10 and under 18 years of age at the time the offence was allegedly committed. The Children’s Court criminal jurisdiction also deals with traffic cases where a defendant is not old enough to hold a licence or where the Court is dealing with related charges and applications relating to criminal cases, such as applications for forensic procedures and parole cases.

If the judicial officer determines that the child or young person is not guilty of the offence, the case will be dismissed. However, if the judicial officer determines that the child or young person is guilty, there are different types of penalties that can be imposed depending on the seriousness of the offence and the circumstances of the young person, including any previous criminal record.

While the court process for dealing with cases is very similar to the process for adult defendants there are some differences:

- The court is closed to the general public and the judicial officer can exclude people from the courtroom if they are not directly involved in the case.
- The proceedings are conducted with less formality. Prosecutors and lawyers remain seated when they speak, and police witnesses do not wear uniforms when attending court.
- Information that is likely to identify a child or young person involved in the proceedings cannot be published or broadcast.

2019 - 2023 Workload Trends



2019 - 2023 Workload Trends - continued

Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lodgments					
New Offences	24,310	24,787	23,632	25,392	28,442
Reactivated Proceedings*	4,772	4,453	3,917	3,871	3,438
TOTAL	29,082	29,240	27,549	29,263	31,880
Finalisations					
New Offences	23,758	24,527	23,905	25,172	21,322
Reactivated Proceedings*	4,296	3,723	3,499	3,210	4,223
TOTAL	28,054	28,250	27,404	28,382	25,545

*Reactivated Proceedings include arrest warrants executed or revoked, relisted after mental health orders made, breach of community based orders, annulment applications, sentencing corrections, and other miscellaneous orders and applications.

Note: Count is by number of offences (proceedings).

Crime		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Time to finalisation						
New Offences	< 6 months	18,271	7,689	17,177	7,819	20,146
	6-12 months	4,632	5,569	5,495	5,838	4,532
	>12 months	855	1,269	1,233	1,515	867

Note: Count is by number of offences (proceedings).

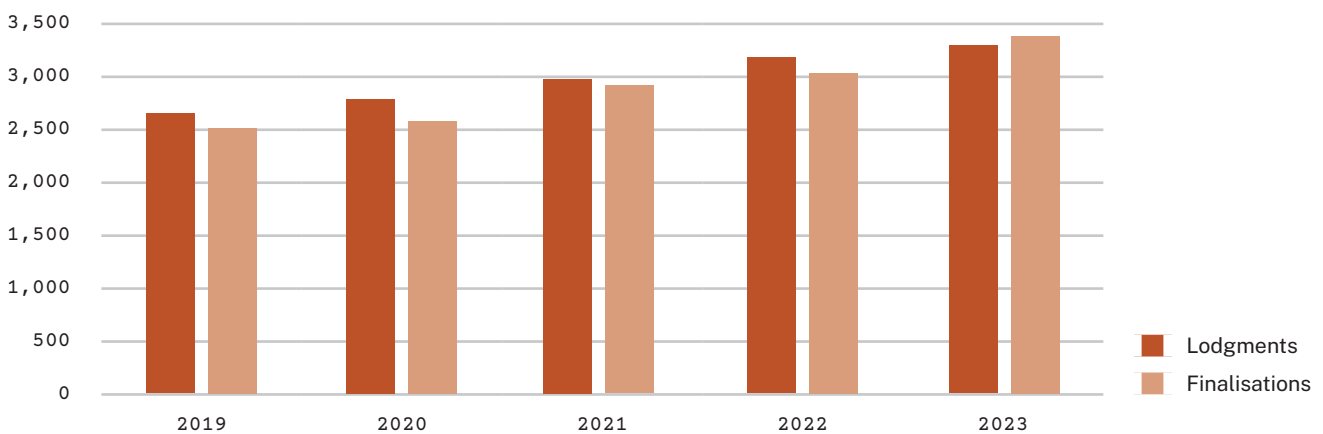
Apprehended Violence Orders

Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs) are orders that a court makes to protect people. The Children's Court deals with AVOs where the defendant is under 18 years at the time the application is made.

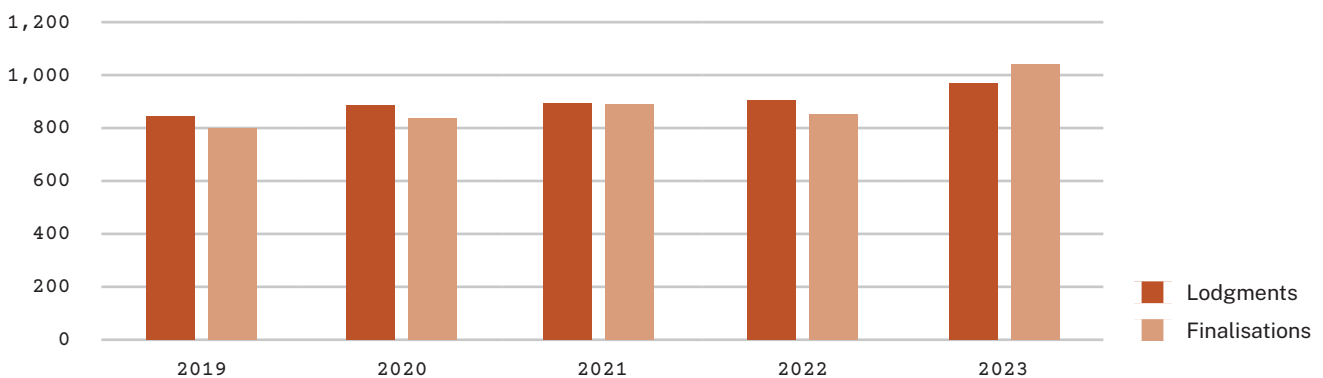
AVOs impose a condition on the defendant not to assault, threaten, harass, intimidate, stalk, or destroy or damage property of the protected person for a specific period of time. AVOs can also have additional orders such as prohibiting the defendant from contacting the protected person or going within a certain distance of the protected person's home or work.

2019 - 2023 Workload Trends

Apprehended Violence Orders - Domestic



Apprehended Violence Orders - Personal



2019 - 2023 Workload Trends - continued

AVOs		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lodgments						
DOMESTIC	Application for Domestic Violence Order	2,630	2,783	2,973	3,185	3,274
	Application to Vary/Revoke Domestic Violence	31	28	24	21	18
	TOTAL	2,661	2,811	2,997	3,206	3,292
PERSONAL	Application for Personal Violence Order	836	880	891	904	964
	Application to Vary/Revoke Personal Violence	6	2	2	2	5
	TOTAL	842	882	893	906	969
Finalisations						
DOMESTIC	Application for Domestic Violence Order	2,525	2,595	2,928	3,041	3,357
	Application to Vary/Revoke Domestic Violence	1	5	3	3	4
	Judicial Officer Initiated Orders (Domestic)	6	7	5	11	12
	TOTAL	2,532	2,607	2,936	3,055	3,373
PERSONAL	Application for Personal Violence Order	794	831	883	848	1,029
	Application to Vary/Revoke Personal Violence	0	3	0	0	1
	Judicial Officer Initiated Orders (Personal)	6	5	4	8	10
	TOTAL	800	839	887	856	1040

Note: Count is by case number.

AVOs		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Time to finalisation						
DOMESTIC (Application for Domestic Violence Order)	< 6 months	1,147	1,113	1,303	1,342	1,549
	6-12 months	1,184	1,258	1,376	1,446	1,550
	>12 months	194	224	249	253	258
PERSONAL (Application for Personal Violence Order)	< 6 months	311	299	315	249	365
	6-12 months	379	427	455	435	502
	>12 months	104	105	113	164	162

Note: Count is by case number.

Compulsory Schooling Orders

In NSW, all children between the ages of 6 and 17 must receive schooling. Where a child's school attendance is not satisfactory the Secretary of the Department of Education may apply to the Children's Court for an order that:

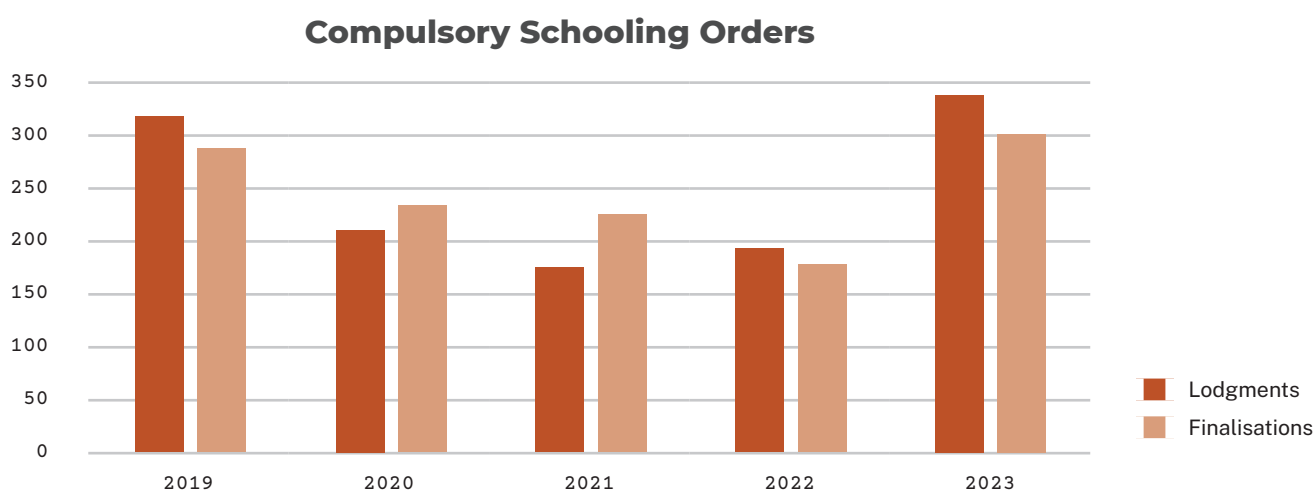
- requires a parent of a child to ensure that the child receives compulsory schooling, or
- requires a child to engage in compulsory schooling where the child is of or above the age of 12 years, and the Children's Court is satisfied that the child is living independently of his or her parents or that (because of the child's disobedience) the parents are not able to cause the child to receive compulsory schooling.

The Children's Court may require a parent and/or a child to attend a conference with other relevant people to:

- identify and resolve issues leading to non-attendance,
- locate services that could assist the young person to attend school, and/or
- propose undertakings and orders for consideration of the Children's Court.

The conference may be conducted by a Children's Registrar or by a person arranged by the Department of Education.

2019 - 2023 Workload Trends



2019 - 2023 Workload Trends - continued

Compulsory Schooling Orders		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lodgments						
<i>Application for Final Compulsory Schooling Order</i>		305	185	157	191	300
<i>Application for Interim Compulsory Schooling Order</i>		9	26	20	3	41
TOTAL		314	211	177	194	341
Finalisations						
<i>Application for Final Compulsory Schooling Order</i>		290	220	198	163	271
<i>Application for Interim Compulsory Schooling Order</i>		2	13	27	15	30
TOTAL		292	233	225	178	301

Note: Count is by case number. Excludes reactivations.

Compulsory Schooling Orders		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Time to finalisation						
< 6 months		147	74	96	66	144
<i>Application for Final Compulsory Schooling Order</i>	6-12 months	118	102	68	60	98
	>12 months	25	44	34	37	29

Note: Count is by case number. Excludes reactivations.

Part 3

Specialist Court Processes and Services



Care and Protection

Dispute Resolution Conferences

Dispute Resolution Conferences (DRCs) were introduced by the Children's Court in 2011 as a form of alternative dispute resolution for matters in the Court's care and protection jurisdiction.

DRCs are convened by a Children's Registrar pursuant to section 65 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. Children's Registrars are both legally qualified and trained mediators. The conferences are based on a conciliation model which means the Children's Registrars have both an advisory and a facilitative role.

DRCs take place in an informal, non-adversarial and confidential environment where parties are encouraged to have an honest discussion about action that should be taken in the best interests of the child or young person. With the assistance of the Children's Registrar, the parties are encouraged to narrow the issues in dispute, consider options and try to reach an agreement which is in the best interests of the child or young person.

Matters may be referred to a DRC by a judicial officer or a Children's Registrar, at the request of a party or on the Court's own motion.

Children's Registrars routinely travel across the state to convene DRCs where a Children's Registrar is not available at that location.

In 2023, **934** DRCs were conducted by Children's Registrars.

Children's Court Clinic

The Children's Court Clinic (the Clinic) was established under section 15B of the *Children's Court Act 1987* to provide the Children's Court with independent specialist advice in care and protection matters. The Clinic is currently located at Parramatta Children's Court and forms part of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. It is independent of the Court, the Department of Communities and Justice and the legal profession.

The Clinic engages professionals known as Authorised Clinicians with specific expertise in psychiatry, psychology and social work to conduct assessments and prepare clinical reports in regard to:

- children and young persons, and/or
- the capacity of parents and others to carry out parental responsibility.

Assessments are conducted after meeting and listening to children, their parents and other family members, in addition to reading material filed in the case. Reports are given to the Court ordering the assessment and it is up to the judicial officer to decide whether the report should be released to all the parties.

In 2023, **324** assessment orders were made including initial and subsequent orders.

Crime

Youth Justice Conferences

The Children's Court may refer a child or young person for a youth justice conference under the *Young Offenders Act 1997*. This option is often available for offences that are comparatively less serious. Generally, the child or young person, their families or support persons, victims, police, and the child's lawyer are able to participate in the conference.

One of the aims of the conference is for the participants to talk about the offence and the impact upon the victim. The young person must acknowledge and accept responsibility for their actions. During the conference it is hoped that all participants can agree to an outcome plan, which is intended to prevent future offending by the young person. An outcome plan might include things such as the young person apologising to the victim and/or, participation in a counselling or education program.

The outcome plan is forwarded to the Children's Court where it is either accepted, rejected or returned for amendments. If the outcome plan is accepted by the court and the young person satisfactorily completes the requirements of the plan, no further action will be taken by the Children's Court.

Where participants fail to agree on an outcome plan or the young person fails to complete the outcome plan, the matter is referred back to the Children's Court where the proceedings will continue.

Broadmeadow Pilot

The Broadmeadow Children's Court Pilot Project commenced on 1 July 2019. The Project brings together a team of government agencies and non-government organisations to provide wraparound supports to young people presenting to the court. The Project is designed to remove barriers between partner agencies and improve access to information to support decision making, assessments, and interventions that address the factors that have led to the young person's offending.

Sexual Offences List Pilot

The Sexual Offences List pilot commenced at Parramatta Children's Court on 13 October 2023. The pilot aims to improve the court experience of complainants and defendants in sexual offence proceedings, improve the efficiency of the court process through effective case-management, improve communication between the Court and stakeholders, and ensure that participants are treated in a trauma-informed manner. The pilot also encourages early guilty pleas, realistic hearing dates, and the continuity of practitioners, prosecutors and magistrates.

The Children's Court is committed to continuing the list in Parramatta and expanding the pilot to Surry Hills in 2024.

A Place to Go

A Place to Go draws on services across NSW Government and non-government service providers to deliver a coordinated service solution to support and deliver a better service response for young people in contact with the criminal justice system.

A court-based multidisciplinary team works with existing services at Parramatta Children's Court to provide a coordinated response to young people in court proceedings.

A Place to Go has been operating in the Nepean Area Police Command and the Parramatta Children's Court since November 2018.

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network

The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) provides health care for young people in the criminal justice system.

The JH&FMHN's Adolescent Court and Community Team conduct mental health assessments for young people appearing before the Court and provide the judicial officer with a mental health report to help determine a young person's eligibility for any appropriate diversionary programs. The JH&FMHN also plays a significant role in assisting young people when they are released from custody by making appropriate referrals to a range of health services to help improve overall health outcomes and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Children's Court Assistance Scheme

The Children's Court Assistance Scheme is a free, confidential support service funded by Legal Aid NSW for young people appearing before the Children's Court in criminal matters.

Trained support workers assist young people and their families before, during and after their court appearance by explaining court processes, helping them find their lawyer and linking them up with support services such as drug and alcohol programs, counselling and accommodation to help them address any social needs which may be impacting their risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.

The Children's Court Assistance Scheme is currently available at Wyong, Woy Woy, Broadmeadow, Port Kembla, Campbelltown, Surry Hills, and Parramatta.

Youth Justice Officers

Youth Justice Intake Officers are employed by Youth Justice NSW. They provide the Court with information to assist the Court make an appropriate determination in relation to bail including the presentation of a bail plan aimed at mitigating any bail concerns. Youth Justice intake Officers also coordinate the provision of background reports to assist the Court determine sentences.

Youth Justice Community Officers play a significant role in both the supervision and provision of community-based programs to help young people address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. They supervise young people on probation or a good behaviour bond and encourage them to participate in educational, therapeutic, vocational and recreational programs tailored to suit their individual needs. Youth Justice Community Officers can also help prepare background reports for the Court to assist the judicial officer with the sentencing of a young person.

Officers from Youth Justice also supervise young people in custody and transport young people to court where required.

Education Court Liaison Officers

The Education Court Liaison Officer (ECLO) program was established in 2018. ECLOs identify young people appearing before the Children's Court who are not attending school and take steps to re-engage them in an educational option which matches their needs and abilities. They do this by talking to the child or young person, their family and/or their support person to determine the reasons why the child or young person is not going to school and then liaise with the Department of Education to find appropriate educational options for them. ECLOs may also link them to support services to address other risk factors that may be contributing to their involvement in the criminal justice system.

ECLOs work at a number of Children's Court locations including:

- Campbelltown Children's Court,
- Parramatta Children's Court,
- Surry Hills Children's Court,
- Broadmeadow/Singleton/Raymond Terrace Children's Court Circuit, and
- Port Kembla/Nowra Children's Court Circuit.

Part 4

Improving Services to Aboriginal Communities

Winha-nga-nha List (Care and Protection)

The Winha-nga-nha List commenced at Dubbo Children's Court on 4 September 2023 following a co-design process with Aboriginal community representatives and key stakeholders in response to recommendation 125 of the *Family is Culture Review Report, 2019*.

The Winha-nga-nha List is a dedicated court list for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families involved in care and protection proceedings at Dubbo Children's Court.

The Winha-nga-nha List aims to:

- ensure that cultural considerations are meaningfully explored in the court process,
- improve outcomes for Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander children in care proceedings,
- increase participation of parents and, where appropriate, children in the court process,
- improve the engagement of family members and their community with the Children's Court, and
- improve confidence and connection with the court system by improving transparency of the court process.

Compared to other care and protection proceedings, the Winha-nga-nha List provides a less formal courtroom setting with more time to listen, talk and think about what is important for the children.

Families involved in the list are welcome to invite extended family, Aboriginal Elders, respected community members and/or other support people to attend court with them.

An Aboriginal Court Liaison Officer is provided as a point of contact for families coming to the Children's Court and Aboriginal staff are available to help families better understand the court process.

Winha-nga-nha (pronounced Wi-nun-ga-na) is a word from the Wiradjuri language meaning to 'know, think, remember':

Know the Aboriginal people, their families, children, community, their culture and what has brought them to where they are today.

Think about how we can better support families and their children in a culturally appropriate court setting.

Remember always remember the past and where we have come from.

The Children's Court acknowledges the support of the Dubbo Aboriginal community in identifying and endorsing the Court's use of the word in this context.

Winha-nga-nha List Cultural Sharing Workshop

On the 29 June 2023 a Cultural Sharing Workshop was delivered by the Three Rivers Regional Assembly, an Aboriginal governance body that represents the interests of Aboriginal people across 12 communities from Bathurst to Nyngan.

The workshop was attended by Children’s Registrars, Dubbo Children’s Court registry staff, legal practitioners, staff from the Children’s Court Executive Office, and DCJ Child Protection. Participants gained a deeper awareness of the local Dubbo Aboriginal community as well as enhancing their personal and professional capacity to engage respectfully and effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



The Winha-nga-nha List Cultural Sharing Workshop participants.

Youth Koori Court (Crime)

The Youth Koori Court was established in response to the significant over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the criminal justice system.

A pilot Youth Koori Court process commenced at Parramatta Children's Court on 6 February 2015. Following success of the Youth Koori Court at Parramatta, the process was expanded to Surry Hills Children's Court on 6 February 2019. The first regional Youth Koori Court commenced in Dubbo on 24 March 2023.

The Youth Koori Court operates within the Children's Court. The Court is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who have been charged with a criminal offence and who choose to be part of the Youth Koori Court process.

The Youth Koori Court has the same powers as the Children's Court but uses a deferred sentence model to better involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families, and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the court process.

With the assistance of Elders and other respected people from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities, the Youth Koori Court seeks to identify risk factors, such as homelessness, disengagement from education, drug and alcohol issues or other health issues, that may be impacting the young person's involvement with the criminal justice system.

An Action and Support Plan is developed to help the young person further develop their relationship with their culture and community and address any risk factors. The implementation of the Action and Support Plan is monitored by the Youth Koori Court over a period of months and the young person is required to come back to court several times.

At the end of the process the judicial officer sentences the young person taking into consideration the steps the young person has taken under their Action and Support Plan.

During 2023:

- **45** young people were referred to the Youth Koori Court.
- **47** young people were admitted to the Youth Koori Court.
- **18** young people graduated from the Youth Koori Court.

Youth Koori Court Community Panel Members

Community Panel Members are integral to the Youth Koori Court. They are respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members who provide the social and cultural support necessary to assist young people reconnect with their culture and form stronger bonds with their communities. They also provide cultural advice to the Youth Koori Court Magistrates and the Children's Court.

Community Panel Members play an important role, however, they do not decide on the outcome of the case, only the magistrate makes the sentencing decision.

In 2023, there were **33** Community Panel Members engaged with the Children's Court across Parramatta, Surry Hills and Dubbo.

Ceremonial Sitting Youth Koori Court Dubbo

The commencement of the Youth Koori Court was marked with a Ceremonial Sitting on Friday 21 July 2023. The ceremony opened with a traditional dance performance in Dubbo's recently built multi-purpose court room accompanied by Uncle Lewis Burns on the didgeridoo. Attendees then proceeded outside to participate in a smoking ceremony led by Uncle Lewis.

Aunty Narrell Boys welcomed the attendees to her Country and Aunty Margaret Walker provided an inspiring Welcome to Country in Wiradjuri language.



Didgeridoo performance by Uncle Lewis Burns during the smoking ceremony to mark the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.



Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner participating in the smoking ceremony at the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.



Her Honour Magistrate Sue Duncombe participating in the smoking ceremony at the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.



His Honour Magistrate Paul Hayes participating in the smoking ceremony at the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.



Dale Bonham, Youth Koori Court Liaison Officer, participating in the smoking ceremony at the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.



Aboriginal dancers performing a cleansing dance using gum leaves from the smoking ceremony.



Aboriginal dancers portraying different animals that were formed on the land in the dreamtime.



Aunty Narrell Boys, Youth Koori Court Community Panel Member, with Aboriginal dancer at the smoking ceremony during the opening of the Youth Koori Court in Dubbo.

Youth Koori Court Cultural Sharing Workshop

On the 9 March 2023 a Cultural Sharing Workshop was delivered by The Three Rivers Regional Assembly, an Aboriginal governance body that represents the interests of Aboriginal people across 12 communities from Bathurst to Nyngan.

Participants included Dubbo registry staff and sheriff officers, Magistrate Duncombe, legal practitioners and staff from the Children’s Court, Youth Justice and the Aboriginal Services Unit. Participants gained a deeper awareness of the local Dubbo Aboriginal community as well as enhancing their personal and professional capacity to engage respectfully and effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to support the Youth Koori Court.

“Hearing the lived experiences of Aunty Margaret, Paul and Trevor and the interactions between the Wiradjuri people and the legal system first-hand was heart wrenching but also inspiring. The workshop fostered a real sense of understanding but also a collective desire to do better.”

–Rosemary Davidson, Executive Officer, Children’s Court.



Youth Koori Court Cultural Sharing Workshop participants.

Community Panel Member Yarn Up

On Monday 18 September 2023 Community Panel Members engaged at Parramatta and Surry Hills Children's Courts came together for a yarn up.

The yarn up is a forum for Community Panel Members to share their insights and experiences of working in the Youth Koori Court with each other and the Youth Koori Court Children's Magistrates with a view to improving the experience for young people in the Youth Koori Court. The Court also had the opportunity to talk to Community Panel Members about an Aboriginal artwork project for the Children's Court.

While the Youth Koori Court has been operating since 2015, yarn ups are important in ensuring that the process remains relevant, effective and finds ways to continually improve.



Community Panel Members from Parramatta and Surry Hills at their 2023 yarn up.

Aboriginal Artwork

Digital Artwork Branding Project

Approval was given in June 2023 to source digital artwork for use by the Children's Court to brand the dedicated Children's Court processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families including the Youth Koori Court and the Winha-nga-nha List. Yirra Miya, an Aboriginal owned and operated company, was engaged by the Children's Court to design the digital artwork.

The artwork will be displayed in courthouses where the Children's Court has dedicated Aboriginal court processes and on the Court's factsheets, policy and other documents. The Children's Court also intends to use the artwork to design a banner to be displayed outside the courtroom when the dedicated lists are sitting and scarves, ties or t-shirts for Youth Koori Court Community Panel Members to identify their role in the Youth Koori Courts at Parramatta, Surry Hills and Dubbo.

Several Youth Koori Court Community Panel Members and Children's Magistrates were consulted throughout the project to ensure that the artwork reflects the intention of the Children's Court to create a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and their families involved in Children's Court proceedings.



Digital artwork designed by Lauren Henry and Brittany Cochrane from Yirra Miya. Lauren Henry is a proud Wodi Wodi and Walbunja Person from the Yuin Nation and Brittany Cochrane is a proud Biripi Woman.

Launch of Digital Branding Artwork

The Children's Court held an artwork launch event on 15 December 2023 to inform court staff, Magistrates and Youth Koori Court stakeholders about the project. The launch involved a presentation of the artwork and an explanation of the story behind it.

The artwork launch aimed to improve cultural knowledge, embed the Children's Court commitment to providing a culturally safe environment and promote the valuable work of Aboriginal staff and stakeholders in the Children's Court.



Launch attendees listening to Edwina Hunter (A/Executive Officer Children's Court), Kim White (Manager, Aboriginal Inclusion Unit) and Vanessa Sakal (Senior Policy Officer, Strategy, Planning and Engagement).



Launch attendees listening to Her Honour Magistrate Louise McManus and Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner.

Youth Koori Court Dubbo Artwork

Facilitated and supervised by Bobbie-Jane Jackson, Caseworker Coordinator from Youth Koori Court Dubbo, with guidance from Aunty Narrell Boys, four Youth Koori Court participants created an artwork which illustrates the pathway of their past, present and future. The artwork is divided into four sections which considers and incorporates stories from the young artists' mobs as well as their own special journey to the centre of the artwork. The centre represents Youth Koori Court where they all met and were supported to become better adults into the future.

"I gave them some ideas that they might be able to use but that's what they came up with and they've come up with a pathway, the pathway that they've been on, the pathway where they want to end up which is a big circle in the middle talking to their mob and their Elders and their country all around... I sort of asked them to look back on their grandparents and, you know, the stories that they were told which is, it was not written history with us. It was all verbal, oral, and so we've got to draw on that and that's where I took them back to and that's, this is a painting that they came up with and I'm happy to say I was part of that."

– Aunty Narrell speaking about the artwork at the Youth Koori Court ceremonial sitting in Dubbo.

The artwork is on display in the Youth Koori Court courtroom in Dubbo.



Bobbie-Jane Jackson, Her Honour Magistrate Sue Duncombe, Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner and Aunty Narrell Boys standing next to the Dubbo artwork project.

Part 5

Legal Education and Engagement with the Community



Judicial Officer Education

Children's Court judicial officers updated their legal knowledge and skills by attending conferences, presentations and workshops. The educational programs undertaken by judicial officers in 2023 are outlined below.

Section 16 Meetings

The President of the Children's Court convened two section 16 meetings during the year in accordance with section 16(1)(c) of the *Children's Court Act 1987* (NSW).

The first section 16 meeting was held on 12 May 2023. The day involved visits to Cobham Youth Justice Centre, Narang-Birrong and A Place to Go Home. The President, 13 Children's Magistrates, nine Children's Registrars, the Court's Executive Officer, the President's Associate, the Court's Research Associate and the Court's Listing Co-ordinator attended.

The second section 16 was held on 3 November 2023 at the Judicial Commission Headquarters. Ms Carla Ware, Dr Garner Clancey and Mr Stuart O'Brien gave presentations during the substantive sessions. The President of the Court, 15 Children's Magistrates, 12 Children's Registrars, the Court's Executive Officer, the President's Associate, and the Court's Research Associate attended.



Attendees at the section 16 meeting on 12 May 2023.

Other Judicial Conferences

Judicial officers attended a number of other conferences in 2023 including:

- Local Court Metropolitan Education Session 1, 13-17 February 2023.
- Children in Courts Conference, Tasmania, 20-21 February 2023.
- Southern Regional Conference, 8-10 March 2023.
- Northern Regional Conference, 29-31 March 2023.
- Local Court Annual Conference, 2-4 August 2023.
- Local Court Metropolitan Education Session 2, 13-17 November 2023.

Judicial Officer Education Sessions

Judicial officers attended a number of education sessions organised by the Children's Court in 2023 including:

- Presentation by Elizabeth Evans about The Lighthouse Model in the FCFCOA, 23 February 2023.
- Presentation by Justice Robert Beech-Jones about Sentencing Young Offenders, 31 April 2023.
- Presentation about the effects of ice on adults and prenatal children by Dr Ju Lee Oei, 15 May 2023.
- Presentation by Judge Warwick Hunt about managing parties and witnesses in court, 23 October 2023.
- Presentation by Dr John Kasinathan and Trisha Lloyd about Justice Health, 21 November 2023.

Judicial Officer and Registrar Wellbeing

On 3 August 2022, the Children's Court commenced a judicial and registrar wellbeing program involving Reflective Practice Groups sessions for Children's Magistrates and Children's Registrars. This program continued throughout 2023.

Two Reflective Practice Group sessions were held each month, one session with Children's Magistrates and one session with Children's Registrars. The sessions were conducted remotely and ran for approximately 75 minutes. Each session was facilitated by Dr Kevin O'Sullivan, a Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the UNSW School of Psychology.

Resources for Judicial Officers

Children's Court Resource Handbook

First published in June 2013, the Children's Court Resource Handbook is a valuable online tool designed to provide guidance to judicial officers in relation to matters within the Court's jurisdiction.

The Children's Court Resource Handbook provides information about practices, procedures and policies that impact the children, young people, families and carers who appear before the court. It also provides articles, checklists, summaries and references to relevant case law and legislation.

The Children's Court continues to work in collaboration with the Judicial Commission of NSW to ensure that the Children's Court Resource Handbook is regularly updated to reflect legislative changes and developments.

Judicial Information Research System (JIRS) Database

Judicial officers have a number of resources available to them via the JIRS database which is updated on a regular basis. These resources include topic-based videos and recordings of education sessions, podcasts, bench books and other research tools.

Children's Law News (CLN)

Published on the Children's Court website, the CLN is a regular online publication which alerts legal practitioners and other interested persons of important cases and papers considered to be relevant to the Children's Court.

Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner,

President of the Children's Court

Membership of Organisations

- Member, NSW Police Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Council (PASAC)
- Member, Short-Term Remand Project
- Member, Close the Gap Target 11 Workshop
- Member, Youth Justice Advisory Committee (YJAC)

Speaking Engagements

February

- Presentation: Prosecutors Information Day, 'Young Offenders and The Children's Court'

March

- Presentation: Southern Regional Conference, 'The Children's Court of NSW: Recent and Upcoming Developments'
- Panel: Law Society of NSW, 'Children's Law Panel: Lawyers, Children and The Legal System – A Guide to Best Practice'
- Presentation: Northern Region Conference 'The Children's Court of NSW: Recent and Upcoming Developments'

April

- Presentation: Goulburn Police Academy, Goulburn Police Academy, 'Presentation to Police Academy Graduates'

May

- Presentation: Children's Court Clinic Professional Development Day, 'What Judicial Officers want from Clinicians'
- Presentation: Children's Legal Service Workshop
- Media Article: Jordan Baker, Sydney Morning Herald, 'I was 13, I Thought That's What was Expected of Me'

June

- Keynote Speech: 2023 NSW Secondary Principal's Conference
- Presentation: AbSec NSW Aboriginal Child and Family Conference 2023, 'The role of the Children's Court in responding to risk and strengthening Aboriginal families and communities to keep children safe'

July

- Panel Discussion: New South Wales Police Force Coercive Control Training, 'Expert Panel'
- Opening Address: Ceremonial Sitting of the Youth Koori Court Dubbo
- Presentation: Disrupting Child Sexual Exploitation (DICE) Workshop, 'Messages from the Bench – A Judicial Perspective on Addressing Child Sexual Exploitation'
- Panel Discussion: Legal Aid NSW Training, 'Establishment and Non-Accidental Injury Matters in the Care and Protection Jurisdiction'

August

- Presentation: Aboriginal Legal Service Conference
- Panel Discussion: Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network, Health Care in Secure Settings Conference, 'Are we Criminalising Childhood Adversity? A Panel Discussion on Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility'

- Presentation: Goulburn Police Academy, Goulburn Police Academy, 'Presentation to Police Academy Graduates'
- Presentation: PCYC NSW Board Strategy Session, 'The Children's Court'
- Keynote Speech: Don't Forget the Bubbles Conference 2023, Adelaide Convention Centre, 'Kids in Court – How the Legal System Looks After Children'

September

- Panel: Continuing Professional Development, 'Advocacy in the Children's Court: Considerations for Criminal Matters Involving Children and Young Persons'
- Presentation: Sydney Children's Hospital Network Grand Rounds, 'A Fair go in the Justice System – The Role of the Children's Court'
- Roundtable Discussion: Law Society of NSW, 'Care and Protection Roundtable: Improving Outcomes for Children in Out-Of-Home Care who Interact with, or are at Risk of Interacting with, the Criminal Law System in NSW'
- Panel: Department of Communities and Justice Practice Conference, 'Legal Keynote and Panel'
- Interview: Anna Leask, New Zealand Herald, 'Trends in Youth Crime in Australia'

October

- Podcast: Raising the Bar
- Opening Address: Youth Justice NSW 2023 Statewide Assistant Manager's Conference
- Presentation: Legal Aid Child Representation Workshop

November

- Presentation: Rotary Club of Wairoa Breakfast Club, 'The Systems we have Developed to Prevent, Acknowledge and Respond to Harm'
- Presentation: Youth Justice NSW Aboriginal Staff Conference
- Keynote Speech and Panel Discussion: University of New England Conference, 'Keynote Address' and 'Members of the Bench Panel'
- Workshop

December

- Workshop: Meeting of the Children's Court's Heads of Jurisdiction
- Presentation: Local Court Orientation, 'The Children's Court'
- Presentation: Goulburn Police Academy, Goulburn Police Academy, 'Presentation to Police Academy Graduates'
- Presentation: Charles Sturt University International Summer School, 'Young Offenders and Issues Affecting Young People'
- Journal Chapter: Youth Crime, Youth Justice and Children's Courts (in NSW), 'Chapter 4: The Children's Court'

Appendices

2023 Listings

Location	Care	Crime*
Albury	394	484
Armidale	166	612
Ballina	140	329
Bankstown	0	7
Batemans Bay	46	448
Bathurst	163	594
Bega	49	89
Belmont	0	1
Blacktown	0	7
Blayney	0	4
Boggabilla	0	82
Bombala	1	0
Bourke	11	800
Brewarrina	0	102
Broadmeadow	1,411	5,312
Broken Hill	122	593
Burwood	0	14
Byron Bay	0	50
Campbelltown	1,519	5,124
Casino	0	252
Cessnock	105	508
Cobar	0	41
Coffs Harbour	361	1,681
Condobolin	0	21
Cooma	14	39
Coonabarabran	0	65
Coonamble	6	298
Cootamundra	38	124
Corowa	0	14
Cowra	68	173
Deniliquin	4	134
Dubbo	296	3,624
East Maitland	316	1,074
Eden	0	11
Fairfield	0	1

Location	Care	Crime*
Finley	0	21
Forbes	0	111
Forster	3	256
Gilgandra	0	42
Glen Innes	0	123
Gosford	0	11
Goulburn	105	244
Grafton	118	817
Griffith	144	438
Gulgong	0	1
Gundagai	0	5
Gunnedah	42	301
Hay	0	40
Holbrook	0	6
Hornsby	0	2
Inverell	94	645
Junee	0	1
Katoomba	29	106
Kempsey	69	806
Kiama	0	1
Kurri Kurri	0	2
Kyogle	0	17
Lake Cargelligo	0	62
Leeton	3	114
Lightning Ridge	0	103
Lismore	394	1,739
Lithgow	34	180
Macksville	0	163
Maclean	1	77
Manly	0	3
Milton	0	54
Moama	0	1
Moree	65	1,634
Moruya	0	49
Moss Vale	4	130
Mt Druitt	0	133
Mudgee	55	69
Mullumbimby	0	13

Location	Care	Crime*
Mungindi	0	2
Murwillumbah	3	7
Muswellbrook	51	240
Narooma	0	25
Narrabri	66	139
Narrandera	0	64
Narromine	0	56
Newcastle	0	27
Newtown	0	2
Nowra	339	771
Nyngan	0	6
Oberon	0	2
Orange	188	1,269
Parkes	43	221
Parramatta	4,097	18,569
Penrith	0	7
Picton	0	1
Port Kembla	1,101	2,673
Port Macquarie	82	591
Queanbeyan	36	483
Quirindi	0	44
Raymond Terrace	0	460
Rylstone	0	5
Singleton	1	173
Surry Hills	1,900	10,391
Sutherland	0	1,604
Sydney Downing Centre	0	6
Tamworth	252	1,506
Taree	172	1,135
Temora	0	21
Tenterfield	0	14
Toronto	0	1
Tumbarumba	0	5
Tumut	18	95
Tweed Heads	210	628
Wagga Wagga	317	1,042
Walcha	0	1
Walgett	5	470

Location	Care	Crime*
Warren	0	25
Waverley	0	4
Wee Waa	0	37
Wellington	5	117
Wentworth	12	140
West Wyalong	0	20
Wilcannia	0	93
Windsor	0	318
Wollongong	0	21
Woy Woy	1,212	2,597
Wyong	0	1,196
Yass	0	6
Young	40	296
Total	16,540	78,858

* Data includes bail applications, including applications made on weekends.

Children's Court Committees

Children's Court Advisory Committee

Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner, President of the Children's Court NSW

His Honour Magistrate Michael Crompton, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

Her Honour Magistrate Tracy Sheedy, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

His Honour Magistrate Albert Sbrizzi, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

Ms Kate Bromley, Senior Children's Registrar, Children's Court NSW

Ms Sue Foley, Director, Children's Court Clinic

Ms Alexandra Colquhoun, Legal Aid NSW

Ms Louise Coady, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW

Mr James Clifford, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW

Superintendent Duane Carey, NSW Police

Superintendent Kirsty Heyward, NSW Police

Mr Tom McGregor, NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Ms Rachael Ward, NSW Department of Communities and Justice

Mr Paul O'Reilly, Youth Justice

Ms Sarah Hargans, Department of Education NSW

Mr Mark Anderson, Bar Association

Ms Jennifer Wong, Law Society Representative

Professor Judith Cashmore, Community Representative

Dr Phil Lambert, Community Representative

Mr Bryce Groves, Young Person Representative

Mr Ronald Edward Frankham, Legal Aid NSW
(Deputy member)

Children's Court Education Committee

Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner, President of the Children's Court NSW

His Honour Magistrate David Williams, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

His Honour Magistrate Richard Funston, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

Her Honour Magistrate Tracy Sheedy, Children's Magistrate, Children's Court NSW

Ms Rosemary Davidson, Executive Officer, Children's Court NSW

Ms Kate Bromley, Senior Children's Registrar, Children's Court NSW

Mr Mark Zaki, Judicial Commission of NSW

Ms Jessica Ahearn, Judicial Commission of NSW

Ms Anne-Elise Smith, Judicial Commission of NSW

Children's Court Care Working Party

Her Honour Judge Nell Skinner, President of the Children's Court NSW

Ms Rosemary Davidson, Executive Officer, Children's Court NSW

Mr James Hogan, Registrar, Children's Court NSW

Ms Kate Bromley, Senior Children's Registrar, Children's Court NSW

Ms Jessica MacCulloch, Project Officer, Children's Court NSW

Ms Sue Foley, Director, Children's Court Clinic

Ms Zoe De Re, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW

Ms Louise Coady, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW

Ms Julianna Demetrius, Association of Children's Welfare Agencies

Ms Leanne Wells, Care and Protection Lawyers Association

Ms Sarah Marland, Community Legal Centres NSW

Mr Nick Mitrevski, Crown Solicitor's Office

Ms Joanna Mooney, Crown Solicitor's Office

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